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NFAC 6358-79

27 November 1979

Memorandum for DD/NFA

Subject: SRP's Relationship to the Estimative Process

1. The involvement of the Senior Review Panel in the development of interagency papers is not working satisfactorily. The basic problem is that the NIOs all have different ideas about how to take SRP comments into account, particularly when they get little or no guidance from the DD/NFA. Although the Panel is available to any NIO for direct discussions about any appropriate paper, most NIOs have not availed themselves of this opportunity. We have also learned that SRP comments are not regularly transmitted to the drafters.
2. This situation is highlighted by two recent examples:
 - a. The SRP's comments on an earlier draft of the Soviet-Cuban NIE were apparently ignored, and the SRP did not get a copy of the final coordinated draft to review.
 - b. The NIO/NESA has sent a draft of the Egypt IIM out to the Community for coordination without first getting the approval of the DD/NFA, and again the draft ignores the comments of the SRP.
3. If the review process is to be taken seriously, it requires clearcut rules of interaction, including feedback to the SRP on their comments. If it is not to be taken seriously, the rationale of having a SRP should be reconsidered.
4. To resolve this situation, the SRP would like to meet with the DD/NFA at your earliest convenience to clarify the role of the SRP and establish effective procedures. We do not believe this question can be postponed until the NIO reorganization is completed.

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Bruce Palmer, Jr.

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